

The General Alarm

RFD Highlights



Badge Pinning Ceremony

A badge ceremony was held at the Downtown Fire Station on Friday, March 24 at 0800. The ceremony recognized the following personnel:

Retirement of Battalion Chief **Glenn Cash** – March 10

Promotion of Cpt **Oran Pentz** to Battalion Chief – March 24

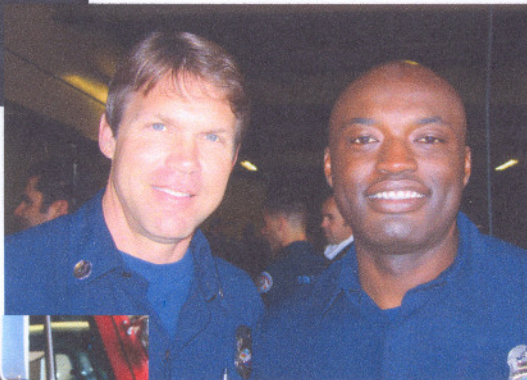
Promotion of FF **Richard Bennett** to Captain – March 24

New Hires: FF **Kristen Johnson**, FF/PM **Joseph Reed**, FF/PM **Francisco Robles**, FF **Andrea Ferchaw**, FF **Denise Delgado**, FF **Cory Bruce**
(all hired on January 13)



Left: Newly promoted Captain Richard Bennett and his wife, Josephine.

Right: Captain Bob Ward congratulates his probationary firefighter Joe Reed



Left: Battalion Chief Oran Pentz is joined by his wife, Laura.

More Photos on the backpage



Fire Chief

Tedd Laycock

Volume 5, Issue 2

Mar/Apr
2006

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Contact Information:

3775 Fairmount Blvd
Riverside CA 92501

Phone: 951-826-5321

Fax: 951-826-5585

Email: www.riversideca.gov/fire

**Prevention
Education
Protection**

Thank You's



Feb 27 – BC Pentz received thank you letters from Hazel Evensen and Doris Morton. These ladies won a dinner and ride-a-long at a fire station as part of an auction prize. Since Jeff Larson and Mike Staley are among the best cooks on the department, Arlington Fire Station B shift was the best choice for a dinner visit. Both ladies complimented the crew (**Robert Leaphart, Mike Reynaud, Mike Staley, Rand Brinkman, Jeff Larson, Bruce Harter, Tim Rise, Richard Bennett, and Oran Pentz**) for their hospitality, delicious dinner, and fun fire truck ride. When Doris described the evening to her children, they responded with “You sound like a little kid.” She agreed while riding on the fire truck for that 15 minutes, she truly felt like a child again.

March 1 – Carolyn Luna, wife of Cpt **Charlie Luna**, sent a thank you card to Chief Laycock. She was involved in a traffic accident near MLK High School. Although not hurt in the accident, she was shaken up. She called her husband who was 30 minutes away. Carolyn asked if Charlie could call the Orangecrest Fire Station to see if they could respond to the accident. She said it was such a relief to see the familiar faces of Cpt **Bill Batey**, Eng **Dave Montoya**, FF **Steve Scotti**, and FF/PM **Greg Papo**. Carolyn was ever so appreciative for the emotional and physical support from the fire department family.

March 14 – A very nice thank you letter was sent to Chief Laycock by Edward J. Dumaine III. Mr. Dumaine complimented the crew from Northside Fire Station (Cpt **Joe A. Rosales**, Eng **Robert Yanes**, FF **Clinton Breads**, and FF/PM **Steve Wu**) for their prompt and professional response to his father's residence. His father was experiencing a mild heart attack for the second time on March 5. Mr. Dumaine was extremely impressed with the treatment his father received

and the way the crew informed his mother and him of what was happening. Mr. Dumaine wrote, “In a world where the media likes to point out all of the bad things our public servants do it was refreshing to see that they are 100% wrong when it comes to the individuals of your department. These individuals need to be commended for an outstanding job that they did.” Chief Laycock expressed his appreciation to the crew upon hearing these positive remarks.

March 27 – Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at CBU, John Higley, thanked Chief Laycock for the outstanding presentation given by Cpt **Terry Miller** and Detective **Jeff Joseph** at Cal Baptist. They addressed a class of criminal justice students about the unique aspects of the crime of arson and the challenges and techniques of fire investigation. He stated that Terry's technical expertise was apparent, and he mentioned that the class especially enjoyed meeting Holly and watching her go about her duties as an accelerant detection dog.

April 11 – Thomas Miller, Coordinator for Riverside's Airshow 2006, thanked Chief Laycock for all the fire department support at this year's show. He gave a special thanks to Cpt **Bob Markin** for his assistance in preparation of the Airshow. Despite the rainy weather, over 60,000 spectators attended the show. Mr. Miller said the event would not have been possible without the support of the Riverside Fire Department, and he looks forward to Airshow 2007.

Dispatcher Week

April 9-15 was Public Safety Telecommunications Week. In appreciation for the dedication and hardwork of the dispatchers, RPD Captain Blakely and Lieutenant Meredith along with RFD Captain **Charlie Luna** joined together to provide raffle drawings, snacks, and games throughout the week.

Every 15 Minutes

Crews from the Airport Station and Canyon Springs Fire Station participated in this year's “Every 15 Minutes” Program at Ramona High School on March 29 and 30. The program simulates a traffic accident involving a driver under the influence to emphasize the risks and potential tragedy of drinking and driving.



Read Across America

Harrison Elementary School invited fire department personnel to participate in their “Read Across America” event on March 2. This year's theme was “community”, so they solicited the help of fire and police department members. Harrison Elementary staff thanks the following persons for volunteering their time by reading to the students: FF/PM **Joe Reed**, FF/PM **Frank Robles**, Cpt **Lisa Holloway**, Fire Chief **Tedd Laycock**, and the crew from the La Sierra South Station (Cpt **Tim Kessel**, FF **Rob Foy**, FF/PM **Chris Anderson**).

Congratulations



1 Year Probation – FF/PM **Greg White**

Promotions:

Oran Pentz to Battalion Chief – March 24, 2006

Richard Bennett to Captain – March 24, 2006

Retirement:

Battalion Chief **Glenn Cash** – March 10, 2006

Emergency Services Coordinator **Carmen Nieves** – Carmen retired after 24 years of service to the City. Carmen finished her career on a high note when she received the Kincaid Medal.



New Account Clerk **Dana Roa** brings a new sense of humor to Fire Administration

2006 RFD Wheelchair Basketball Team



Community Access thanks the 2006 RFD Wheelchair Team who participated at MLK High School on April 29: **Clinton Breads, Cory Bruce, Denise Delgado, Mike Estrada, Brian Fuentes, Matt Galik, Bryan Klinke, Matt Mathis, Scott Richmond, Papi Sierra, Tim Vanderhorst, and Greg White**

New Hires:

Richard Horner – New Fire Inspector

Richard began work on April 11 and will be assigned as the district inspector to the Downtown and Canyon Springs Fire Stations. Richard has 14 years of fire inspection experience, eight years with Orange County Fire and six years with Riverside County Fire. In addition, he has a background in electrical contracting, plan checking, and EMT certification.

Dana Roa – Account Clerk

Dana began her duties as Account Clerk in Fire Administration on March 13. She replaces Kim Sabatello, who assumed the duties of Payroll/Personnel Clerk upon the resignation of Tasha Glen. Dana came to us from the University of California, Riverside, where she worked for the past three years. In addition to her daytime job, Dana is a professional standup comedian who performs in clubs around Southern California.

Arson Task Force Award

Eight members of the Riverside Arson Task Force (Cpt **Terry Miller**; Investigators **Rob Rappaport, Ed Clark, Tony Garcia, Dirk Jensen**; RFD Public Education Specialist **Gale Schulte**; and RPD Detectives **Jeff Joseph** and **Randy Ryder**) are among 17 members of the multi-jurisdictional task force that received the prestigious Helene and Joseph Sherwood Prize from Anti-Defamation, Pacific Southwest Region. The award ceremony was held on February 16 at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

The multi-jurisdictional Riverside Arson Task Force is composed of the RFD; RPD; Riverside County District Attorney's office; the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATFE); and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The combined resources conducted town hall meetings in communities across the Inland Empire on the topics of hate crimes, arson, and civil rights violations with the goal of educating community members to recognize and prevent incidents of hate crimes. The task force is also responsible for the effective investigations of arson incidents at the Palm Baptist Church in Riverside and the United Islamic Youth Organization mosque in Adelanto in San Bernardino County.

The Sherwood prize "recognizes individuals who are so committed to their work that they make a significant difference in their community and serve as role models for their departments." These awards focus on law enforcement activities in 2004 or 2005 "that demonstrate relentless dedication to containing and minimizing the prevalence and severity of hate-motivated behavior."

Badge Pinning Ceremony (cont)



Right top: Probationary FF Andy Ferchaw and her mother

Right Middle: Probationary FF Kristen Johnson with her family

Right Lower: Ralph Wilson, John Martinez, Rick Cabrera, and Dave Hernandez celebrate their peer's accomplishments

Left top: BC Oran Pentz and Fire Chief Tedd Laycock share a funny moment



Above: Many RFD members attended the badge ceremony to honor their friends

Left: Fire Mechanics Dean, Joe, and Vince also attended.



Relay 4 Life

Riverside Fire Department personnel participated in the American Cancer Society's Annual Relay 4 Life event at Ramona High School on April 22 and 23. Team Captain/Fire Inspector **Roni Forst** recruited participants and supported the team for the 24 hour event. Retired Division Chief **Chris Jensen** celebrated his 58th birthday by completing 58 laps in less than 4 hours in the early morning hours. Thanks to all who made donations or participated in the event.



Above (L to R): Cathy Williams, Kristen Johnson, Team Captain Roni Forst take a break from walking to pose for a picture



City of Riverside Fire Department Incident Totals Mar/Apr 2006

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>March-06</u>	<u>March-05</u>	<u>April-06</u>	<u>April-05</u>
Total Calls	2,121	2,231	2,033	2,175
Structure Fires	15	24	17	15
Vehicle Fires	21	17	12	26
Vegetation Fires	7	7	10	22
Refuse/Rubbish Fires	16	37	21	22
Other Fires	5	6	2	8
Total Fires	64	91	62	93
Rescue & EMS Incidents	1,187	1,234	1,118	1,190
Number of Patients	1,142	1,252	1,087	1,170
Hazardous Conditions	66	71	55	69
Service Calls	146	129	161	151
Good Intent Calls	549	581	520	561
Malicious False	26	32	19	36
Other False	68	76	75	65
Total False	94	108	94	101
Mutual Aid Received	12	13	16	17
Mutual Aid Given	30	28	24	37
Incidents with Exposures	0	2	3	5
Total Exposures	0	7	4	6
Fire Dollar Loss-Property	\$164,500.00	\$1,589,800.00	\$146,700.00	\$915,650.00
Fire Dollar Loss-Contents	\$39,000.00	\$1,071,150.00	\$112,000.00	\$364,450.00
Non-Fire Dollar Loss	\$500.00	\$15,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$500,000.00
Fire Service Injuries	0	7	0	0
Non-Fire Service Injuries	0	0	0	0
Fire Service Deaths	0	0	0	0
Non-Fire Service Deaths	0	0	0	0
Fire Civilian Injuries	1	4	0	0
Non-Fire Civilian Injuries	0	0	0	0
Fire Civilian Deaths	0	0	0	0
Non-Fire Civilian Deaths	0	0	0	0